

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice Amended) A piston adapted for reciprocal movement within a cylinder of an internal combustion engine, said piston comprising:

a body defining a longitudinal axis of said piston extending in the direction of reciprocal movement and having a crown formed at the uppermost margins of said body and a skirt depending from said crown and adapted for relative sliding motion with respect to the cylinder, said skirt including an outer circumference having a major thrust side and a minor thrust side formed substantially opposite each other on said outer circumference of said skirt;

a coating bonded to said skirt so as to be juxtaposed between said skirt and the cylinder, said coating having a plurality of recesses formed thereon so as to define a predetermined pattern of recesses on the surface of said skirt, said plurality of recesses including a series of lubrication grooves extending across said outer circumference of said piston skirt at a predetermined angle relative to said longitudinal axis such that said series of grooves collectively define a chevron formation that act to operatively engage lubricant between said skirt and the cylinder wall.

2. (Amended) A piston as set forth in claim 1, wherein said plurality of recesses include a series of lubrication flow directing grooves extending in a downwardly converging manner at a predetermined angle relative to said longitudinal axis and across said outer circumference of said piston skirt in a chevron formation.

3. (Original) A piston as set forth in claim 2, wherein said plurality of recesses further include a reservoir channel located substantially at the center of said minor thrust side of said piston skirt and extending in a direction substantially parallel to the direction of reciprocal

motion of said piston within the cylinder, said chevron formation of grooves terminating at said reservoir channel.

4. (Amended) A piston as set forth in claim 1, wherein said plurality of recesses include a series of flow directing lubrication grooves extending in a downwardly diverging manner at a predetermined angle relative to said longitudinal axis and across said outer circumference of said piston skirt in a chevron formation.

5. (Original) A piston as set forth in claim 4, wherein said plurality of recesses further include a reservoir channel located substantially at the center of said major thrust side of said piston skirt and extending in a direction substantially parallel to the direction of reciprocal motion of said piston within the cylinder, said chevron formation of grooves terminating at said reservoir channel.

6. (Amended) A piston as set forth in claim 1, wherein said plurality of recesses include a series of lubrication flow directing grooves extending in a downwardly converging manner at a predetermined angle relative to said longitudinal axis and across said minor thrust side in a chevron formation.

7. (Original) A piston as set forth in claim 6, wherein said plurality of recesses further include a reservoir channel located substantially at the center of said minor thrust side and extending in a direction substantially parallel to the direction of reciprocal motion of said

piston within the cylinder, said chevron formation of grooves terminating at said reservoir channel.

8. (Amended) A piston as set forth in claim 1, wherein said plurality of recesses include a series of lubrication flow directing grooves extending in a downwardly diverging manner at a predetermined angle relative to said longitudinal axis and across said major thrust side in a chevron formation.

9. (Original) A piston as set forth in claim 8, wherein said plurality of recesses further include a reservoir channel located substantially at the center of said major thrust side and extending in a direction substantially parallel to the direction of reciprocal motion of said piston within the cylinder, said chevron formation of grooves terminating at said reservoir channel.

10. (Original) A piston as set forth in claim 1, wherein said coating is a polymer coating.

11. (Original) A piston as set forth in claim 1, wherein said coating is a metallic coating.

12. (Twice Amended) A piston adapted for reciprocal movement within a cylinder of an internal combustion engine, said piston comprising:

a body defining a longitudinal axis of said piston extending in the direction of reciprocal movement and having a crown formed at the uppermost margins of said body and a skirt

depending from said crown and adapted for relative sliding motion with respect to the cylinder, said skirt including an outer circumference having a major thrust side and a minor thrust side formed substantially opposite each other on said outer circumference of said skirt;

a coating bonded to said skirt so as to be juxtaposed between said skirt and the cylinder, said coating having a plurality of recesses formed thereon so as to define a predetermined pattern of recesses on the surface of said skirt, said plurality of recesses including a series of intersecting grooves extending across the outer circumference of said piston skirt at a predetermined ~~angles~~ angle relative to said longitudinal axis so as to define a substantially hatch-like pattern, operatively engaging lubricant between said skirt and the cylinder wall.

13. (Original) A piston as set forth in claim 12, wherein said coating is bonded to said major thrust side and said minor thrust side of said piston skirt and adapted to operatively engage lubricant between said major thrust side and the cylinder wall and said minor thrust side and the cylinder wall.

14. (Original) A piston as set forth in claim 12, wherein said coating is a polymer coating.

15. (Original) A piston as set forth in claim 12, wherein said coating is a metallic coating.

16. (Twice Amended) A piston adapted for reciprocal movement within a cylinder of an internal combustion engine, said piston comprising:

a body having a crown formed at the uppermost margins of said body and a skirt depending from said crown and adapted for relative sliding motion with respect to the cylinder, said skirt including ~~[[an]]~~ a substantially smooth outer circumference having a major thrust side and a minor thrust side formed substantially opposite each other on said outer circumference of said skirt;

a coating bonded to said skirt so as to be juxtaposed between said skirt and the cylinder, said coating having a plurality of recesses formed thereon so as to define a predetermined pattern of recesses on the surface of said skirt, said plurality of recesses defining a series of lubrication retaining discs in uniform spaced relation with respect to each other to provide lubrication retention along said outer circumference of said piston skirt.

17. (Original) A piston as set forth in claim 16, wherein said coating is bonded to said major thrust side and said minor thrust sides of said piston skirt relation and adapted to operatively engage lubricant between said major thrust side and the cylinder wall and said minor thrust side and the cylinder wall.

18 - 19. (Cancelled)